

1 Finally, I hope the Commission will
2 recommend to the industry that it devote its research
3 efforts to looking at how its products and its
4 marketing procedures may, in fact, be contributing to
5 an increase of problem gambling in the future.

6 I think those recommendations would be
7 helpful.

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you, Dr. Clark.

10 Tony DeMarco.

11 MR. DeMARCO: Yes, good evening.

12 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Welcome.

13 MR. DeMARCO: My name is Tony DeMarco.

14 I'm a counselor and a member of the board of
15 directors --

16 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Tony, would you pull the
17 mike a little closer --

18 MR. DeMARCO: Yes.

19 CHAIRMAN JAMES: -- so the people in the
20 back can hear?

21 MR. DeMARCO: Yes. I'm a counselor, and
22 I am member of the board of directors of the Council

1 on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey. It's a pleasure
2 to be here.

3 On a community visit something similar to
4 what you're doing this evening, Mahatna Gandhi was
5 asked by a mother to cure her son of eating sugar, and
6 he said, "Madame," he said, "come back in 30 days."

7 She came back with her son in 30 days, and
8 he said, "Son, you no longer have the desire to eat
9 sugar. You're cured."

10 And she said, "But, Great One, why didn't
11 you cure my son 30 days ago?"

12 He said, "Madame, first I had to learn how
13 to stop eating sugar myself."

14 Thank God that our leaders in government
15 do not have to be compulsive gamblers to implement
16 what is necessary to prevent a predisposition to
17 gamble, to prevent early years, golden years, and
18 social gambling from rising to the level of an
19 addiction, and to treat the addiction when it has
20 risen to that level.

21 I teach therapists and counselors that are
22 not familiar with compulsive gambling to identify the

1 symptoms of compulsive gambling and to think and feel
2 like a compulsive gambler so that they may be able to
3 set up effective treatment plans.

4 I educate and counsel parents, children,
5 siblings and significant others on the denial, ways,
6 and cunning devices of compulsive gamblers, and most
7 importantly, that it is a disease that must be treated
8 like any other disease, not with contempt.

9 When a tree falls in the forest and there
10 is no one there to hear it, does it make a noise?
11 When an infant in an empty house wails for lack of
12 food, does it mean that the child is not hungry for no
13 one is paying attention to it?

14 It is most difficult to hear the cry for
15 help of a compulsive gambler for his or her cry does
16 not bear the telltale signs of the cries of those
17 unfortunates who are addicted to varied substances.
18 If you do not cup your ears towards our voices, you
19 will not hear what we are saying.

20 Because the light of knowledge does not
21 shine upon the plight of the compulsive gambler,
22 because it is too easy to say that he or she does not

1 have willpower, because only 50 years ago, which was
2 like yesterday, gambling was mostly done in alleyways,
3 dark basements, and with sinister looking bookmakers,
4 because it has taken an untoward amount of
5 time for government to establish its understanding of
6 compulsive gambling in the here and now, and because
7 it is not fashionable to make compulsive gambling a
8 champion's cause, millions of American citizens and
9 those aspiring to be American citizens will suffer the
10 pains of hell and impress that same hell upon loved
11 ones and other persons that they touch.

12 The state lotteries, the casinos, the
13 Internet gambling are all vociferously promoting their
14 wares of gambling in the here and now.

15 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you, Mr. --

16 MR. DeMARCO: And although --

17 CHAIRMAN JAMES: -- DeMarco.

18 MR. DeMARCO: What's that?

19 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you. I'm sorry,
20 but the time is --

21 MR. DeMARCO: Oh, is it? Thank you for
22 listening to me.

1 CHAIRMAN JAMES: I'm going to ask you to
2 submit the rest of that for the record.

3 MR. DeMARCO: It has been submitted.

4 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you.

5 Mr. Harvey, welcome.

6 MR. HARVEY: Moderator, thank you. I'm a
7 retired clergyman, and I find it very difficult to go
8 from 25 minutes to three minutes, and so I ask your
9 indulgence, please. I'm going to speak faster than I
10 usually do and not yell.

11 I've lived in Atlantic County now for four
12 years and am a card carrying member of Harrah's and
13 some of the other casinos.

14 I find it interesting to live here, and I
15 have been studying casino gambling and its impact upon
16 our community in many ways.

17 My Atlantic City history began here when
18 my in-laws came on their honeymoon in 1926. They went
19 home singing about Atlantic City's boardwalk where
20 life was peaches and cream.

21 Well, times change. We've heard of that
22 already. Peaches and cream were replaced by